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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AUG 16 2001
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

In re patent application of:

Elco et al.

Serial No.: 09/208,962

Group No.: 2839

Filed: 10 December 1998

Examiner: N. Abrams

For: **LOW CROSS TALK AND IMPEDANCE CONTROLLED ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR WITH SOLDER MASSES**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed together with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and is responsive to the Office Action dated February 12, 2001 that issued in connection with the above-captioned patent application. Please note that a Notice of Appeal was filed in this case on May 14, 2001. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c), the Request for Continued Examination should be treated as a request to withdraw the appeal and to reopen prosecution of the application before the Examiner.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1, as follows:

1. (Four Times Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:

a dielectric base;

a plurality of ground or power contacts in said dielectric base and comprising:

4 a mating portion for engaging a mating component, said mating portion having an